Creation Matters

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The 2024 CRS Conference

by Lindsay Harold

This year's CRS Conference was a huge success and widely believed to be the best one ever. The 2024 conference was held at the Ark Encounter in Kentucky on July 25-27. We had 210 attendees, ranging in age from 5 to 84. There were attendees from Germany and South Africa as well as from all over the United States. Many people were finally able to meet friends from CRSnet and other platforms in person. Many old friends had an opportunity for fellowship as well. Several new friendships and collaborations were started. It was a rewarding experience for everyone involved.

The conference began on Thursday with all-day workshops in biology, geology, and astronomy. Workshop participants were advised to come prepared to contribute to the discussion of the current state of creation science in their field and identify new directions for further research. Thursday evening included a reception for all conference attendees, which was a valuable time of fellowship and conversation while enjoying the delicious finger foods provided.

The conference proper began on Friday morning with introductory remarks and a short presentation by Martyn Iles, the Executive CEO of Answers in Genesis. The plenary talk was given by Dr. Joel Brown, the new director of the Van Andel Creation Research Center. Dr. Brown's talk was both illuminating and encouraging and agreed by many to be the highlight of the entire conference. He shared his background in molecular biology, made some great observations about the multiple levels of irreducible complexity God has created in living things, and used that as a springboard to talk about how creation research can progress in the future.

One surprising metric in which creation science can improve, which no one had previously been talking about, is the number of authors per paper. In secular research, the average number of authors per paper is about seven, even in field-specific journals, and much higher in the most prestigious journals. Creation research tends to have an average of less than two. This means that most creation researchers are lone rangers, working by themselves rather than collaborating with others. Dr. Brown emphasized that we can accomplish more together than we can separately. One part of his plan is to help creation researchers collaborate more effectively in the future. He gave us all a vision to "raise the bar" on this metric as we move forward.

Saturday morning began by honoring CRS Fellows and the humorous CRS Follies led

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Math Matters

The Coriolis Effect

by Don DeYoung, PhD

As the World Turns was a popular television "soap opera" during 1956-2010. The show is history; however, the world still spins on its 24-hour cycle with respect to the Sun. The Earth's surface is a rotating platform which gives an apparent deflection to moving objects, similar to a merry-go-round, and this is called the Coriolis effect.

Two centuries ago, rotating frames of reference were studied by French physicist Gaspard-Gustave de Coriolis (1792-1843). A man of devout Catholic faith, Coriolis was gifted in understanding the Earth's rotational dynamics. To explain, consider a freely swinging pendulum located directly above the North Pole. The pendulum maintains its direction of swing while the Earth turns beneath. As a result, the pendulum appears to slowly pivot clockwise, precessing to the right and moving through a full circle in 24 hours. The effect depends on the location of the pendulum with respect to Earth's latitude angle φ. The time T for a full 360° precession is given by T = 24 hours/sin φ. A 24-hour precession occurs at the North Pole where φ = 90°. At 45° latitude the pendulum moves though a full circle in about 40 hours. At the Equator where φ = zero, the pendulum does not precess.

Perhaps you have seen a long pendulum on display in a public location, slowly moving to the right and precessing clockwise as it swings. This motion is clear evidence of the Earth's rotation, first demonstrated in Paris by physicist Jean Foucault (1819-1868). Likewise, in the Northern Hemisphere, all objects moving upon the Earth's surface tend to deflect to the right, as shown in the figure. The curved motion results because of the Earth's variable surface speed of about 1,000 miles/hour at the Equator, 733 mph (1,180 km/hr) at ±45° latitude, and zero rotation speed at the poles. The figure shows deflection is to the left for moving objects south of the Equator.

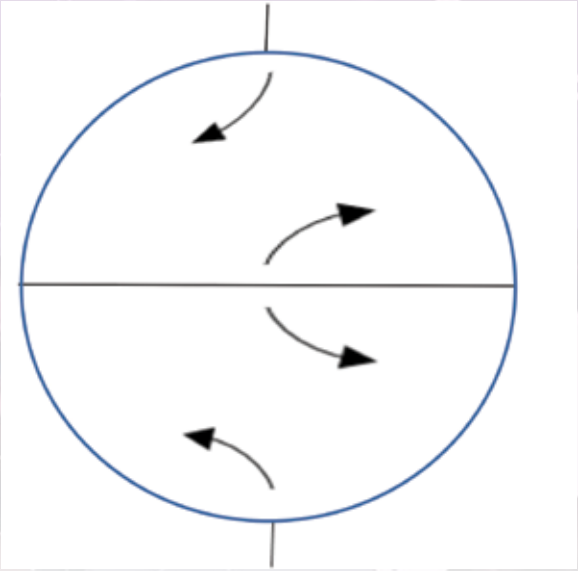

Diagram of the earth without the tilt. The arrows show the deflection of objects moving across the earth's surface. All moving objects in the Northern Hemisphere tend to curve to the right, while curving to the left below the equator.

Some results of the Coriolis effect:

-The Coriolis effect determines the Earth's prevailing weather patterns. North of the Equator, high pressure systems rotate clockwise while low pressure systems turn counterclockwise. Hurricanes and tornados are associated with low pressure and

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Another Example of Over-Design: Tardigrades

by Jerry Bergman, PhD

Over-design in engineering refers to employing a complexity beyond what is required or exceeding industry standards, such as in safety. Over-design in the field of intelligent design refers to mental and physical skills that exist at levels well beyond that required for survival. Evidence of over-design provides strong support for a level of intelligent design that cannot be explained by Darwinism. Evolutionary biologist Jerry Coyne observed that a major argument for the existence of an intelligent creator

> is that the human brain has abilities far beyond anything that would be needed by our African ancestors. We can build skyscrapers, fly to the Moon, cook elaborate dishes, and make (and solve) Sudoku puzzles. Yet such abilities could not possibly have been useful during nearly all of the period when our brain evolved. How then do we explain them? To some theologians, the answer is God.

Coyne added that a leading biologist who agreed with his [Coyne's] concern

> was the biologist Alfred Russel Wallace. Although a tireless and selfless promoter of evolution by natural selection (he called his book on the topic Darwinism), Wallace could not see how selection could produce the multifarious abilities of the human brain.

Specifically, Wallace, the co-discoverer of Darwin's 'theory,' concluded that "the human brain was over-designed . . . thus could not have" evolved. The case for over-design was so significant for Wallace that it led him to abandon the Darwinian evolutionary theory for humans and embrace what is today known as the Intelligent Design of humans. In the words of Genetics Professor Steve Jones, "Evolution does its job as well as it needs to, and no more." As Wallace explained, the fact that many organs and structures existing in the natural world (such as those of the tardigrades) are designed to go far beyond what is required for survival is a major problem for Darwinism. Tardigrades are incontrovertible evidence that creatures exist which could never have come into existence through evolution by chance mutation and natural selection.

The Tardigrade Example

The design of the tardigrade (which means *slow walker*) allows it to survive in environments that are far more hostile to life than any environment they could ever experience on Earth. These eight-legged, segmented, millimeter-long animals are about the size of the period used to end a sentence. They can be seen with the naked eye in the right light. Tardigrades (or "moss piglets"), often called "water bears" because their walk resembles that of a bear, look nothing like any known animal. Their faces resemble a vacuum cleaner nozzle, with two dagger-shaped units designed to cut into plant cells and suck out their juices. Their legs look like short fat fingers with thin hairs sticking out.[9] A tardigrade's plump, fat body sheds its outer layer as it grows. Its outer layer is not an exoskeleton, but rather a flexible and durable cuticle made of proteins and polysaccharides. Tardigrades are so unique that taxonomists had to create a new phylum for them, the Tardigrada.[10]

Tardigrades are invertebrates that live in diverse environments from the deep sea

Scanning Electron Micrograph of a Tardigrade. From Schokraie, E., et al. 2012. Comparative proteome analysis of Milnesium tardigradum in early embryonic state versus adults in active and anhydrobiotic state. *PLoS ONE* 7(9): e45682. CC BY 2.5 Licensed.

to tropical rainforests, rivers, glaciers, mountaintops, and in the Antarctic. Many inhabit the thin films of water that cover terrestrial lichens and mosses (hence the nickname "moss piglets"). These tiny metazoan (multi-celled) creatures are an excellent example of over-design.[11] They are well designed to thrive even in environments so extreme that no other creature could survive in them. As a result, they are found most everywhere on earth, even where no other creatures are able to inhabit.

The Most Resilient Animals on Earth

These most amazing life-forms are among the most resilient animals on Earth.[12] They are able to survive extreme conditions that would rapidly kill most other known life-forms. This includes extreme temperatures and extreme hydrostatic pressure in the deep ocean. They can even live in the vacuum of outer space or in a dehydrated condition for up to ten years,

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requiring only water to resurrect them. In freezing temperatures, they literally dry up, going from 85 percent to as low as 3 percent water. This process of suspended-animation hibernation, called *cryptobiosis*, can extend their lifespan from the normal one year to as long as 60 years. Cryptobiosis involves curling up their head and legs like an armadillo, tightly rolling themselves into a barrel-like shape, then shutting down their metabolism, including their respiration. They then contract themselves to become a dry ball, a stage called a "tun."[13]

Detailed study of their radiation resistance has confirmed that they are one of the most resistant life-forms known to scientists.[14] One tardigrade species that glows blue when exposed to ultraviolet light uses the power of fluorescence as a shield to protect itself from levels of UV radiation known to effectively kill other microorganisms, including bacteria and viruses.[15]

Specific Examples

Tardigrades can endure extremely cold temperatures as low as -273°C, just barely above absolute zero.[16] They were also designed to survive in extreme heat conditions up to 150°C. In addition to extreme temperatures, they have survived being placed into a vacuum and bombarded with electrons, such as could be experienced in outer space. They can even persist in extraordinarily high water pressures up to 600 MPa, which is six times greater than at the bottom of the deepest oceanic trench.

Tardigrades have been known to withstand X-ray radiation that is 250 times more intense than that which would kill an average human. One experimental group of tardigrades all managed to survive for 30 days following an X-ray dosage that kills bacteria and nematode worms in just five minutes. In one study, scientists cranked the X-ray dose up to four kilojoules per square meter for a full hour. Fully 60 percent of the tardigrades survived for 30 days after this intense exposure.[17]

The Life of the Tardigrade

How tardigrades are designed to thrive in such enormously varied environments is largely unknown. Although they are omnivores, they prefer plant-cell juices and algae, and some consume rotifers and nematodes.[18] Their reproduction is both sexual and asexual. Their eggs, which look like starfish, have many of the same qualities that the adults display. They are harmless to humans and serve humanity by breaking down and recycling plant matter. The 1,300 species have genomes that vary in size from about 75 to 800 megabases, almost an 11-fold difference![19] This enormous variety creates a horrendous challenge for evolution.

Summary

The fact that tardigrades can survive in conditions found nowhere on Earth except in the laboratory supports the view that their existence, with their over-design similar to that of the human brain, confounds evolution. The most comprehensive research on them, a 427-page technical study, contains not a single word about their evolution. Vetter writes that these creatures are Exhibit A for a creature that "could never come into existence through chance mutation and selection."[20]

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Summaries of Cutting-Edge Research from the *Creation Research Society Quarterly*

Summaries by Andrea Reitan

Floods on Mars

Uniformitarianism and the Big Bang are foundational to much of secular scientists' interpretation of their observations. This paradigm guides their thinking, their predictions, and their work. For this reason, they are repeatedly surprised by discoveries that contradict their expectations. An example of this is the discovery of geological features on Mars that appear to have been formed by water, leading secular scientists to accept the idea that Mars had experienced major flooding in the past where there is no liquid water on the surface today, but they continue to deny the global flood of Genesis here on Earth where over 70% of the surface is covered by liquid water.

In the summer 2023 issue of CRSQ, Oard began a three-part series of papers discussing apparent evidence of catastrophic flooding on Mars. In the first paper, he addresses the impossibility of flooding on Mars according to uniformitarian models. One of the problems with these models is the Faint Young Sun Hypothesis, which states that the sun was dimmer in the deep past, providing less heat when Mars was supposedly warmer and wetter. Oard gives a brief overview of the secular belief that Mars, like the rest of the solar system, formed from a collapsing dust cloud, followed by an explanation of its orbital characteristics. He then mentions the mystery of the topographic dichotomy between Mars' northern lowlands and southern highlands and some proposed explanations by uniformitarians. Mars has an extremely thin atmosphere, but Oard states that its atmospheric pressure must have been much higher during its floods. Another surprise for uniformitarians was evidence of ice at middle and high latitudes. There is also evidence of massive volcanism. Oard moves on to discuss Valles Marineris and some evidence of a past magnetic field. Also, Mars, like nearly all of the solar system's other solid bodies, shows many impact craters, which uniformitarians use as a method for dating structures on the planet's surface. The next topics Oard addresses are Mars' geologic features: valley networks, outflow channels, and gullies.

The second part of this series appeared in CRSQ's winter 2024 issue, where Oard raised six questions stemming from the discovery of Mars' outflow channels and valley networks:

1. How were outflow channels and valley networks carved? Was it water, ice, or some other fluid?
2. Were they eroded by a few catastrophic floods or many small flows?
3. Where did the water come from?
4. How much water was needed for the observed erosion?
5. Where did the water go?
6. What are the implications for Mars' history?

Oard proposes answers to the first four of these questions in this paper and addresses the problems with the uniformitarians' answers and explanations.

He answers the last two questions in CRSQ's spring 2024 issue. He begins this third paper with a discussion of the assumptions and inaccuracies of the uniformitarian crater dating methods and proposes a YEC explanation for the craters on Mars and elsewhere. Then he explains how large impacts would have destroyed Mars' magnetic field. Using the decay rate of the magnetic field, the timing of many of the impacts is estimated to have occurred either on Day 4 of Creation Week or around the time of the Genesis Flood. Oard also points out that the biblical timeline does away with the Faint Young Sun Hypothesis, which is a cause of failure for secular climate models. It is likely that Mars had some subsurface water after Creation, and large impacts combined with volcanism during the Genesis Flood could have resulted in the release of enough water on Mars' surface to produce the flood features observed today. The water may have then been incorporated into hydrated minerals, or it may have percolated down into the subsurface.

One of the goals of Flood geology is to develop a sophisticated Flood model that can explain the geological, geophysical, and palaeontological observations within a biblical framework. Catastrophic Plate Tectonics (CPT) is currently the most popular model, but it is not the only one. Another model is the Impact/Vertical Tectonics (IVT) model, which proposes that asteroid and/or comet impacts were followed by differential vertical tectonic movement of the crust and mantle that brought Earth to its present geography and topography. Meteors may also be a secondary mechanism in CPT. Studies of the surface of Mars are fairly recent, but it appears to have experienced geologic catastrophism in the form of impacts that

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can be related to Day 4 events as well as the Flood. Oard believes that impacts should be considered as a factor in any Flood model.

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Ziggurats Around the World

While young-Earth creationists believe the Bible's account of the dispersion from Babel to be literal history, evolutionists believe it to be a myth. They claim that humans in the past were too stupid and primitive to have the advanced technology required for such a project as the Tower. However, their assumptions leave them with the problem of explaining why ziggurats around the world bear so much resemblance to each other. Creationists can cite the biblical account of the Tower of Babel to explain the similarities.

In the spring 2024 issue of *CRSQ*, Habermehl addresses how the existence of similar ziggurats around the world provides confirmation for the historicity of the biblical narrative. After a brief overview of the background given in the Bible, she discusses where she believes Babel was located and when the dispersion likely happened. Then she explains the differences between the biblical and secular timelines in assigning archaeological dates to various sites.

There can be some confusion about what is a ziggurat and what is a pyramid, so Habermehl takes a few paragraphs to explain the terminology. A pyramid is generally a structure with a square base, and its four sides come together at the top. An example is the Egyptian pyramids at Giza. A ziggurat, on the other hand, is a stepped pyramid with multiple stories that become progressively smaller as they go up. They also have at least one set of stairs leading to a flat top with a shrine on it. An example of a ziggurat is the Temple of Kukulcan at Chichen Itza in the Yucatan, Mexico. Smooth pyramids have only been found in Egypt and Sudan while ziggurats have been found in as many as 30 countries, and more are being discovered.

Habermehl then points out the Bible's mention of a city associated with the Tower of Babel. This introduces a discussion of another common feature of ziggurats. She explains that the city was not what we understand it to be today but that it was a large religious complex with various other structures, such as temples, shrines, altars, and statues.

Evolutionists have a number of proposed explanations for the similarities among ziggurats in different cultures — some of them quite far-fetched. To complicate things, ziggurats are being discovered that are dated far older than many secular archaeologists are willing to accept. They choose to deny that these structures are man-made rather than change their assumptions about early man's intelligence. Habermehl points out that even many "biblical" archaeologists do not believe the Bible's account of the Tower of Babel.

The Bible tells us about a population of highly intelligent humans who chose to rebel against God and build a city and tower as a focal point for their pagan religion. God put a stop to that and caused them to disperse around the world as He had commanded. The various people groups retained much of their knowledge as they settled in different locations. This would have included knowledge of their incomplete building project at Babel, which many people groups have copied over the centuries. The existence of ziggurats and pyramids around the world is easily explained by the Bible and confirms its historicity.

Reference

Habermehl, A. 2024. Why Ancient Worldwide Ziggurat/Pyramid Complexes Support the Biblical Babel Account. *CRSQ* 60(4): 243-257.

CALL FOR PAPERS

The CRSQ is publishing a special issue in honor of the 45th Anniversary of the May 1980 eruption of Mount St. Helens. Creation papers on Mount St. Helens must be submitted by November 30, 2024 for inclusion in this issue. Send papers to CRSQeditor@creationresearch.org.

Conference

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by Danny Faulkner. The plenary presentation on Saturday was given by John Baumgardner. His talk focused on a mechanism for catastrophic plate tectonics (CPT) to produce the large-scale megasequences found in the world's sedimentary strata. Dr. Baumgardner suggested a series of seven discrete episodes of supernatural cooling during the flood which would have periodically reduced the height of the sea floor and caused water to recede off the continents, leading to the erosional patterns that divide the megasequences.

After the plenary talks on Friday and Saturday, there were three concurrent sessions to choose from. Each presentation lasted 30 minutes followed by 15 minutes for questions and answers. Past conferences have had only two sessions at a time, but the number of high-quality abstracts this year led to more options and tougher decisions in choosing which session to attend. There were many biology, geology, and astronomy talks as well as several related to archaeology or a Biblical worldview. Despite the sometimes controversial nature of these presentations, discussion remained very cordial and helpful. Because CRS conference presentations are primarily for research still in progress, it is beneficial for researchers to receive input on their projects. This is also why conference talks are not recorded. Sometimes further investigation or feedback from peers modifies the direction or conclusions of the research. However, abstracts from the conference will be published in the CRSQ.

On Friday afternoon, Ken Ham gave the Henry M. Morris Memorial Lecture. This lecture has been given at every CRS conference thus far to honor the founder of the modern creation science movement. It is always open to the public, not just conference attendees. Guest speakers have been chosen from those who had worked with Henry Morris during his life. Past speakers have included John Whitcomb, Duane Gish, Gary Parker, Frank Sherwin, John Morris, Steve Austin, Kenneth Cumming, Don DeYoung, Russ Humphreys, and Andy MacIntosh. This year, Mr. Ham gave a very engaging presentation about the foundations of a Biblical worldview in Genesis 1-11 and how this affects nearly every aspect of a person's understanding of the world.

On Sunday, after the conference, Danny Faulkner led a field trip to the Red River Gorge to view the beautiful rock arches there. The trip included a brief outdoor worship service under an arch to praise the Creator for His wonderful works.

We thank God for a productive conference and the opportunity to learn more about God's amazing creation! The next CRS conference will be held July 24-26, 2025 in a location still to be determined.

Effect

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also rotate counterclockwise due to the Earth's spin.

-Depending on direction of travel, speed, and latitude, all objects moving across the Earth's surface experience Coriolis deflection, which is a variable in flight. This includes aircraft, migrating birds, and long-range projectiles.

-In sports, the trajectories of balls in baseball, football, golf, and soccer are slightly deflected by earth rotation. A detailed analysis finds that during a 280-yard golf drive, the ball shifts about 4 centimeters (1.6 inches) to the right. In sports, many other factors generally mask the Coriolis effect (Gorski, 2017).

-A popular idea concerns the circular direction of draining water, swirling counterclockwise north of the Equator (similar to low pressure) and reversed in the south. In this case, however, the geometry of the basin and the initial movement of water dominate the Coriolis effect. Some readers may have a different opinion on the direction of draining water above and below the Equator!

The atmosphere of Venus shows negligible Coriolis deflection because the planet has an extremely long rotation period of 243 earth days. In contrast, Jupiter with its 10-hour rotation period shows clear Coriolis swirling effects in its surface gases. The Coriolis effect reminds us of the intricate physical details of our dynamic Earth, including influence on the weather.

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Call for abstracts for ICC New Scholars Conference

The Board of the International Conference on Creationism is pleased to announce the New Scholars Conference, to be held in Flagstaff, Arizona on April 4-6, 2025. This conference is focused on encouraging new researchers in the creationist community to present their work. The conference will feature posters and 10-minute abstract presentations. Those interested in presenting can submit a 300-500 word proposal, summarizing their abstract or poster and its contribution to young-earth creationism. Proposals will be accepted starting on December 1st, 2024 and the deadline for submission is February 15th, 2025. While proposals from all creationist scholars will be accepted, we encourage veteran researchers to consider mentoring a younger colleague or student in preparing a submission for this conference.

Creation Research Society
Research is our middle name

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Prayer Matters

Praise: We thank God for a successful conference and wonderful time of fellowship!

Prayer: Please pray for the on-going research projects of the society. This includes the special CRS research projects of i-DINO and e-KINDS as well as the research sponsored by CRS research grants. Pray for clearness of mind to find truth and that the research will glorify God.

Please pray for the financial needs of the society, that they will be met.

Please pray for Dr. Brown as he is beginning his new position as lab director and as he travels to and from speaking engagements.

Thanks Again!

CRS Election

The CRS board has chosen 4 nominees for the 3-year CRS board term beginning in Summer of 2025.

The nominees for the CRS board are:

- David Boyd
- Yingguang Liu
- Georgia Purdom
- Andrew Repp

Ballots must be postmarked by January 15, 2025 in order to be counted. Results will be announced in March.

If you are a voting member and have not received your ballot by December 1st, please email crsvarc@crsvarc.com. If you are not a voting member and have earned a master's degree or higher in a scientific field, you can have your membership updated to voting status by emailing the society.

CRS Research Grants

Research grants for 2025 will be accepted from January 1–March 31. More information on CRS research grants can be found at creationresearch.org/vacrc-research-grants.